

In and Near Sinuk



ESKIMO SCHOOL CHILDREN

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THE people of Alaska are principally Aleuts, Eskimos and Indians. The Woman's Home Missionary Society has work for the Aleuts at Unalaska, where Jesse Lee Home has been established for several years, and for Eskimos through the Hilah Seward Industrial Home and Orphanage at Sinuk, thirty miles from Nome. Special effort is made to induce the people from the surrounding regions to settle at Sinuk, at least during the winter season. To the shame of the whites we must recognize that the conditions in a city like Nome are the very worst possible for the natives, and government officials there cordially approve this plan of our Society.

Nearly three hundred Eskimos live on King Island, where their little huts cling to the rocks and cliffs. It is a barren, unfriendly place, but they need to be there early in the spring to hunt the fur-bearing animals that come from the far north on the ice floes. There are nearly three hundred people on the island and no missionary or teacher has ever come to them.

Hunting is the principal source of income for these people, for the island intercepts the ice when it breaks up in the early spring, and they can thus secure a good supply of game. Their little skin boats cannot be used in the ice, or when the seas is rough. In celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary, the Woman's Home Missionary Society of New Jersey Conference has furnished a strong, well-built sail boat, by which they can easily go back and forth from Sinuk; thus their children can have school opportunities and they themselves can come

under the influence of the mission, as they are eager to do. The island is in Bering Sea, about seventy-five miles from Sinuk.

The "New Jersey" is also used to carry supplies from Nome to Sinuk and, a very important matter, to bring driftwood to the mission from several miles up the coast.

Sinuk is centrally situated for a large section of country. The United States Government has a school there, and the management is more than friendly to our work.

The reindeer industry is a unique feature of this Mission. The government has loaned a reindeer herd under carefully stated conditions, and within a few years it will doubtless prove a source of income for the Mission from sales, besides the manifold uses of the reindeer.

The Eskimos are very susceptible to good influences; except in cases of illness, it is customary for every man, woman and child in Sinuk to be present at the prayer-meeting and other services. Their sweet, low voices show feelings stirred and souls uplifted as they take part in the exercises. A Christian native came to the missionary after service one Sunday morning, to say that one of his friends who had been a Christian had given it up. He was very anxious to talk with him about Jesus, and the Christian life, and see if he could not get him to love Jesus again, but he did not know just what to say, and so he came to the missionary to be told the best way.

The orphanage was named by the largest donor toward the building, Mrs. M. E. H. Yates, of Fort Edward, N. Y. Her grandmother, Hilah Seward, was a cousin of Secretary Seward, who brought about the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

Among the needs of the Sinuk Mission are the following:

1. Money for its maintenance.
2. Books and pictures. There is special call for simple, interesting and helpful books for boys in their teens. The apprentice herders must live in a camp several miles from the

village, and they are eager for books and papers to read.

3. Clothing for men, women and children; socks, boots, shirts and underwear and red bandanna handkerchiefs for men and boys, and skirts, waists, wrappers, stockings for women and girls. Do not send cloaks, jackets or capes. Bed and table linen, towels, knives, forks, spoons and other articles needed in a home are most acceptable. Christmas presents, such as dolls, toys, books, cards, nuts, raisins, etc. must be sent in the early summer to be on time.

Boxes and packages should be addressed to Mr. W. F. Baldwin, Sinuk, Alaska, care Purchasing Officer, Revenue Cutter Service, Appraiser's Building, San Francisco, Cal. If in that city before April 1, there are no freight charges from San Francisco to the Mission.

Mailing Address, Sinuk Station, Nome, Alaska.



WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

150 Fifth Avenue, New York City

50 or less, 6c.; per 100, 10c.